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Page 8

The wealthy should give more to charity, according to a new poll



Page 2

Sgt. Kevin Fowler organizes food at a food bank distribution by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, in Cleveland.

Associated Press



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The wealthy should give more to charity, according to a new poll

From Front

By SARA HERSCANDER
Chronicle of Philanthropy

A new poll of Americans found that nearly half of those who stopped giving to charity over the past five years said they did so because they thought wealthier people could afford to give more — and should. Others said they simply could not afford to give. The survey of more than 2,100 adults across the United States, released by the Better Business Bureau's Give.org, adds to research on the shrinking number of households that contribute to charity each year, dropping from 66% in 2000 to 49.6% in 2018. The impact of the decline became even more clear when a Giving USA report revealed donations from individuals dropped by 13.4% after inflation and led to one of the steepest declines in contributions in recent decades.

Art Taylor, CEO of BBB's Give.org, says that many nonprofits have attracted wealthy donors to their causes, and that is turning off people of more modest means who don't think their gifts are needed.

Taylor says he worries about that trend because he says an overreliance on affluent givers can leave nonprofits vulnerable to the interests of a few powerful people versus a community of supporters.

"Large numbers of small gifts give charities independence," he says.

Middle- and upper-income Americans were especially likely to point toward super-wealthy donors for their decision not to donate. More than 59% of those surveyed with household incomes above \$70,000 believe that wealthier people should drive donations, compared with 47% of households over all. Over 55% of those who stopped giving say they don't earn enough to afford donating to charity. The survey also found:

— Older generations were more likely to have donated over the past five years, with 72% of respondents



A pallet of food awaits processing as volunteers work in the background to label cans of beans for redistribution at Roadrunner Food Bank in Albuquerque, N.M., Thursday, May 7, 2020.

age 76 and above maintaining or increasing their contributions, compared with 67% of boomers, 57% of Gen Xers, 57% of millennials, and 42% of Gen Zers.

— Respondents who stopped contributing to charities were less likely than those who maintained their contributions to believe that donating to nonprofits was more effective than shopping at socially responsible businesses, with only one in four saying that donating had a stronger impact. Among Gen Zers, 52% said shopping at responsible businesses had the same or greater impact.

— Participants who stopped donating to charities over the past five years said they were most likely to increase future contributions if it was easier to find charities serving their community (17.6%) or led by people who share their political identity (17.6%).

ENGAGING YOUNGER DONORS

While the report doesn't offer a one-size-fits-all solution for charities to tap more everyday donors, the youngest Americans surveyed said a major obstacle to contributing to charities is simple: They aren't being asked.

More than 45% of Gen Zers said they haven't been

asked to donate, compared with 3.8% of boomers. When it comes to younger donors, "we have to learn how to reach them where they are rather than hope that they will come to us," says Elvia Castro, associate director of charity evaluation at BBB's Give.org, and lead author of the report. The millennials and Gen Zers surveyed were far more likely than older generations to trust newer solicitation channels, such as social media, crowdfunding sites, and giving circles. They're also less likely to engage in traditional drivers of small donations, including religious and workplace giving, which declined 10% from 2016 to 2018.

"Charities are trained to spend as little as they can on fundraising — that means they go after the big money," says Taylor, who acknowledged trying newer fundraising methods might be difficult for nonprofits with established practices. But he said investing in them would pay off in the long run, and it might be time to discontinue old approaches.

"We have to look at some of the engines that powered small donations for lots of people and ask ourselves if those engines are still as effective," he says.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

AND TRUST

Americans' trust in the charities soliciting them also plays a role in their decision to donate, according to the report. Beyond financial concerns, those who stopped or decreased their contributions over the past five years pointed to concerns about transparency and how their donations were being used.

On the other hand, 72% of people who increased their contributions said it was essential to trust a charity before giving, and one fourth said they would probably donate more if provided additional information about the impact of their contributions.

While financial transparency can bolster gifts and assuage the concerns of skeptical donors, it's important that fundraisers not be disheartened by statistics on trust in charities, says Jen Shang, co-director of the Institute for Sustainable Philanthropy and an expert in philanthropic psychology.

"Just because people express general distrust of the sector doesn't mean that your donors don't trust you and your cause is not worthwhile," she says.

What's more, Americans consistently rank trust in charities as higher than trust in government, corporations, and the news media.

Associated Press

According to the report, almost half of Gen Zers who maintained their contributions attribute their support to wanting to be part of something bigger than themselves. Younger generations also want easier ways to identify charities working in their communities and led by people who share their gender, race, political affiliation, and other identity markers.

"If we can grow giving that's rooted in people's holistic sense of who they are, it's going to be more sustainable because it's rooted in their experience," says Shang, who noted that identity-based giving can be more reliable than donations driven by bursts of generosity, for example, in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Appealing to a broader and more representative pool of donors can provide a feedback loop for creating inclusive and effective programs and attracting new contributors, says Castro.

"If less people are engaged, it's a real concern for the health of the sector," she says. "Not only are there fewer people, which makes the charity more vulnerable, but the people who are giving will be less representative of the people who they're serving." □

After secret documents leak, Pentagon plans tighter controls

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon on Wednesday announced plans to tighten protection for classified information following the explosive leaks of hundreds of intelligence documents that were accessed through security gaps at a Massachusetts Air National Guard base.

Airman 1st Class Jack Teixeira, 21, is accused of leaking the highly classified military documents in a chatroom on Discord, a social media platform that started as a hangout for gamers.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, in a memo released Wednesday, ordered all of the department's secured rooms where classified information is stored and accessed to be brought into compliance with intelligence community standards for oversight and tracking. The changes call for increased levels of physical security, additional controls to ensure documents aren't improperly removed, and the assignment of top-secret control officers to monitor users.



This artist depiction shows Massachusetts Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira, right, appearing in U.S. District Court in Boston, April 14, 2023.

Associated Press

A senior defense official who briefed reporters on the new directives said the department is trying to increase accountability, using technology that can better track what workers are doing and what information they are accessing. But at the same time, the official said, defense leaders don't want to impede the ability to share critical

information across the government when necessary. Asked if the department is trying to limit the number of people who have access to classified information, the defense official said it is an effort to ensure that the department is properly determining what information each person may access and making sure that employees have a need to

know the classified material they are reading. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with Pentagon ground rules for the briefing. In the memo, Austin also said the sensitive compartmented information facilities, or SCIFs, must be monitored to prevent the use of electronic devices

inside the rooms. That effort would include "appropriate electronic device detection systems and mitigation measures" inside the secure areas, according to the memo.

According to authorities, Teixeira, who enlisted in the Air National Guard in 2019, began sharing military secrets first by typing out classified documents and later by removing classified documents from the base and taking them home to photograph them.

Teixeira worked as a "cyber transport systems specialist," essentially an IT specialist responsible for military communications networks, which gave him wide access to the military's classified computing networks.

The case highlighted the potential vulnerabilities the department faces as it works to safeguard classified information at military facilities across the globe that have varying security procedures and layers of protection, said the senior defense official. □

"There wasn't a single point of failure," the official added. □

Trump posted what he said was Obama's address, prosecutors say

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump posted on his social media platform what he claimed was the home address of former President Barack Obama on the same day that a man with guns in his van was arrested near the property, federal prosecutors said Wednesday in revealing new details about the case.

Taylor Taranto, 37, who prosecutors say participated in the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol, kept two firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition inside a van he had driven cross-country and had been living in, according to a Justice Department motion that seeks to keep him behind bars.

On the day of his June 29 arrest, prosecutors said, Taranto reposted a Truth Social post from Trump containing what Trump claimed was Obama's home address. In a post on Telegram, Taranto wrote:



Rioters loyal to President Donald Trump rally at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021.

"We got these losers surrounded! See you in hell, Podesta's and Obama's." That's a reference to John Podesta, the former chair of Hillary Clinton's 2016 Democratic presidential campaign.

Taranto also told followers on his YouTube live stream that he was looking to get a "good angle on a shot." A federal defender representing Taranto did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

His wife told investigators that he had come to Washington this time because of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's offer earlier this year to produce unseen video of the Jan. 6 attack, the federal detention memo states. Taranto already faces four misdemeanor counts related to the Capitol assault, when prosecutors say he joined the crush of rioters who broke into the building and made his way to the entrance of the Speaker's Lobby outside the House

chamber. Since then, prosecutors say, Taranto has been active online, posting a Facebook video of himself in the Capitol that day and endorsing a conspiracy theory that the death of Ashli Babbitt who was fatally shot by a Capitol Police officer as she began to climb through the broken part of a door leading into the Speaker's Lobby was a hoax.

The FBI had been monitoring Taranto's online activities because of his involvement in the riot, and began searching for him last Wednesday after he asserted on his YouTube livestream that he was in Gaithersburg, Maryland on a "one-way mission" and intended to blow up the National Institute of Standards and Technology. □

Associated Press

U.S. gives go-ahead for Orsted's New Jersey offshore wind farm to start construction

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— The federal government gave the go-ahead Wednesday for New Jersey's first offshore wind farm to begin construction, clearing the way for the first of at least three — and likely many more — such projects in a state trying to become the East Coast leader in wind energy.

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approved a construction and operations plan for Ocean Wind I, a wind farm to be built by Danish wind energy company Orsted between 13 and 15 miles off the coast of Atlantic City. The wind farm would power 500,000 homes.

Additional approvals from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency still must be obtained, which Orsted estimates will happen by the second quarter of 2024.

The project already has all of the major state permits it needs, said Larry Hajna,



Land-based windmills turn in the wind in Atlantic City, N.J., on April 28, 2022.

Associated Press

a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Two minor state permits remain outstanding.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's action represents the third federal approval of a commercial-scale offshore wind energy

project in the U.S., joining the Vineyard Wind project in Massachusetts and the South Fork Wind project in Rhode Island and New York, both of which are now under construction. Orsted said it plans to begin construction in New Jersey this fall, "delivering on the

promise of good-paying jobs, local investment and clean energy," said David Hardy, the company's CEO for the Americas.

"Since day one, the Biden-Harris administration has worked to jump-start the offshore wind industry across the country, and

today's approval for the Ocean Wind I project is another milestone in our efforts to create good-paying union jobs while combating climate change and powering our nation," said U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management said Orsted will compensate fishing businesses for lost revenues and reimburse them for lost or damaged gear. The company also will create a navigational safety fund for equipment upgrades, the bureau said. The project would place nearly 100 wind turbines off the coast of southern New Jersey, where they would be visible from the tourist havens of Atlantic City and Ocean City.

That has generated fierce opposition from community groups, most of whom also blame site preparation work for a spate of whale deaths since December. At least 60 whales have died on the U.S. East Coast since then. But three federal and one state agency all say there is no evidence linking the deaths with offshore wind preparations. □

Atlanta police: Motorcycle fires started by 'anarchists' aimed at stopping new training center



Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum speaks to reporters near the scene of a shooting, May 3, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

By SUDHIN THANAWALA

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A fire that destroyed eight Atlanta Police Department motorcycles was among several

Schierbaum said Wednesday.

Schierbaum spoke at a news conference with Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent In Charge Ben Gibbons. The bureau, along with the FBI, is helping investigate the vandalism.

Homemade "incendiary devices" caused a fire early Saturday at Atlanta police's current training center that destroyed the motorcycles, Dickens said. An hour earlier, vandals had smashed the windows of police vehicles at another location. Authorities believe those involved intended to set those vehicles on

fire as well but were spotted by a bystander.

Since the weekend, members of the same group have also tried to intimidate contractors connected to the training center project by flattening tires, vandalizing a home, spraying graffiti and setting fire to construction equipment, Schierbaum said.

Schierbaum cited web postings taking responsibility for the vandalism as evidence they were connected and said investigators believe the same individuals carried out each act. "These acts are of a small determined group that does not represent a wider population," he said. Dickens and others say the

planned \$90 million training center would replace inadequate training facilities and help address difficulties in hiring and retaining police officers that worsened after nationwide protests against police brutality and racial injustice three years ago.

Opponents say they worry it will lead to greater militarization of the police and that its construction will exacerbate environmental damage in a poor, majority-Black area. They are hoping to force a referendum on building the project. The "Stop Cop City" effort, which has been joined by activists from around the country, has gone on for more than two years. □

China accuses the U.S. of turning Taiwan into a powder keg

BEIJING (AP) — China's Defense Ministry accused the United States of turning Taiwan into a powder keg on Wednesday with its latest sales of \$440 million in military equipment to the self-governing island democracy.

The U.S. State Department approved of the sale of 30 mm ammunition and related equipment, along with spare parts for Taiwan's vehicles, small arms, combat weapon systems, and logistical support items. Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Col. Tan Kefei responded that "the U.S. ignores China's core concerns, crudely interferes in China's internal affairs, and deliberately escalates tensions across the Taiwan Strait."

China claims Taiwan as its own territory, to be conquered by force if necessary, and Tan said "stern representations" had been lodged with the U.S.

"This is tantamount to accelerating the transformation of Taiwan into a 'powder keg' and pushing the Taiwanese people into the abyss of disaster," he said in a statement on the ministry's website. Using force to



The American and Chinese flags wave at Genting Snow Park ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympics, in Zhangjiakou, China, on Feb. 2, 2022.

seek independence is wishful thinking and is doomed to failure, he said, using standard Chinese terminology, adding that the People's Liberation Army was always ready and would maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

The U.S. maintains a "One China" policy under which it does not recognize Taiwan's formal independence and has no formal diplomatic relations with

the island in deference to Beijing. Nonetheless, U.S. law requires a credible defense for Taiwan and for the U.S. to treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern."

China regularly sends warships and planes across the center line in the Taiwan Strait that provides a buffer between the sides, as well as into Taiwan's air defense identification zone, in an effort to intimidate the

island's 23 million people and wear down its military capabilities. During a transit stop in the U.S. by Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in April, during which she met with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, China staged three days of large-scale drills around the island, simulating a blockade. China opposes any exchanges at the official level between Taiwan and other governments.□

Associated Press

Colombian rebel group says it will stop attacks on military

By MANUEL RUEDA
Associated Press



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel applauds as Colombia's President Gustavo Petro, left, and ELN commander Antonio Garcia, shake hands during a bilateral ceasefire agreement signing ceremony between Petro's government and the Colombian National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla, at El Laguito in Havana, Cuba, June 9, 2023.

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's largest rebel

group said it will stop attacks on the nation's military as it prepares for a ceasefire with the government that could bring both sides closer to ending five decades of war.

In a statement published Tuesday, the National Liberation Army's Central Command ordered its units across the country to "cease all offensive actions" against the military on July 6, including espionage.

However the group known as the ELN said its fighters will continue to use their weapons to defend themselves from any attack staged by the military or other armed groups that operate in Colombia's rural

areas. In June, the ELN and Colombia's government agreed to take actions that will lead to a bilateral ceasefire on Aug. 3.

The ceasefire is supposed to last six months, and is meant to facilitate peace talks that began at the end of last year, and are expected to last at least until 2025.

The ELN has grown significantly since 2017, when it occupied areas of the country that were vacated by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia following its peace deal with the government. The group known as the FARC has been Colombia's biggest guerrilla army.□

Associated Press

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Quran burnings have Sweden torn between free speech and respecting minorities

By KARL RITTER and JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Quran burning and a string of requests to approve the destruction of more holy books have left Sweden torn between its commitment to free speech and its respect for religious minorities.

The clash of fundamental principles has complicated Sweden's desire to join NATO, an expansion that gained urgency after Russia's invasion of Ukraine but needs the approval of all current members.

Turkey has blocked Swedish accession since last year, citing reasons including anti-Turkish and anti-Islamic protests in Stockholm.

Then, last week, an Iraqi Christian immigrant burned Islam's holy book outside a Stockholm mosque during the major Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, an act that the man said displayed his feelings about the Quran. The burning triggered widespread condemnation in the Islamic world.

And along with similar re-



Indian Muslims hold placards and shout slogans condemning the desecration of Islam's holy book 'Quran' in Sweden, during a demonstration in Mumbai, India, Monday, July 3, 2023.

Associated Press

cent protests by a far-right activist, it sparked a debate in Sweden about the limits of freedom of speech. Now, Swedish police say they have received new requests for demonstrations by individuals who want to burn the Quran, as well as the Torah and the Bible.

Muslim countries have urged Sweden to enact bans and Pakistan's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, called for a daylong protest to defend the sanctity of Islam's holy book on Friday, when Pakistan's parliament will discuss Quran burning. Even some liberal com-

mentators in Sweden argue that the protests should be regarded as hate speech, which is outlawed in the country when it targets ethnicity or race. But many in Sweden say criticizing religion, even in a manner that is considered offensive by believers, must

be allowed and that Sweden should resist pressure to re-introduce blasphemy laws, which were abandoned decades ago in this predominantly Lutheran but highly secularized Scandinavian nation.

Stockholm police on Wednesday said they had received two new applications for book-burning protests in the capital: one from an individual who wants to burn the Quran outside a mosque and another from someone who wants to burn the Torah and the Bible outside Israel's Embassy.

A third request that involves "setting a religious text on fire" had been filed in the southern city of Helsingborg, local police chief Mattias Sigfridsson told The Associated Press.

Police have not yet decided on the requests.

"In Sweden, we have the freedom of expression. We also respect people who have a different opinion and the fact that it may hurt some feelings. We have to look at the law. That is what we do," Sigfridsson said. □

UN: Millions left with no aid as West Africa suffers worst hunger crisis in 10 years

By CHINEDU ASADU
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — The U.N. World Food Program said Wednesday that millions of hungry people in

West Africa are without aid as the agency struggles with limited funding to respond to the region's worst hunger crisis in a decade. Nearly half of the 11.6 mil-

lion people targeted for food aid during the June to August lean season are not receiving any assistance, the agency said in a statement. It warned that hundreds of thousands of people are at risk of joining armed groups, getting married early or engaging in "survival sex" in their desperation to survive.

"We're in a tragic situation. During this year's lean season, millions of families will lack sufficient food reserves to sustain them until the next harvests in September," said Margot Vandervelden, WFP interim regional director for Western Africa. "We must take immediate action to prevent a massive slide into catastrophic hunger," she

said. Long before last year's flooding and Russia's war in Ukraine, West Africa already was facing its worst food crisis in 10 years with more than 27 million hungry people mainly as a result of conflicts but also due to drought and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food insecurity in West and Central Africa is now affecting 47.2 million people in this year's lean season which is when hunger peaks, the WFP said, with women and children the most vulnerable groups.

"Malnutrition rates have also surged, with 16.5 million children under 5 set to be acutely malnourished this year an 83 percent rise

from the 2015-2022 average," the agency said. In central Sahel countries of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger where jihadists have become increasingly deadly, U.N. agencies estimate that the number of people fleeing violence there has nearly quadrupled from 30,000 in January to 110,000 people in June.

"We need a twin-track approach to stop hunger in the Sahel we must address acute hunger through humanitarian assistance while tackling the structural causes of food insecurity by increasing investments in resilient food systems and expanding government social protection programmes," Vandervelden added. □



Malnourished children wait for treatment in the pediatrics department of Boulmiougou hospital in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on April 15, 2022.

Associated Press

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commis-

sioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started search-

ing for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd.



the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativia & gold-mineranch.com.

Blackstone Beach



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the

Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed

the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andi-

curi Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences.

Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □





Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where 'life imitates art.' The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambience, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.



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Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in. The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. "We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too". What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef's Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef's secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional 'cunucu' house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dinning experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff. Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at:

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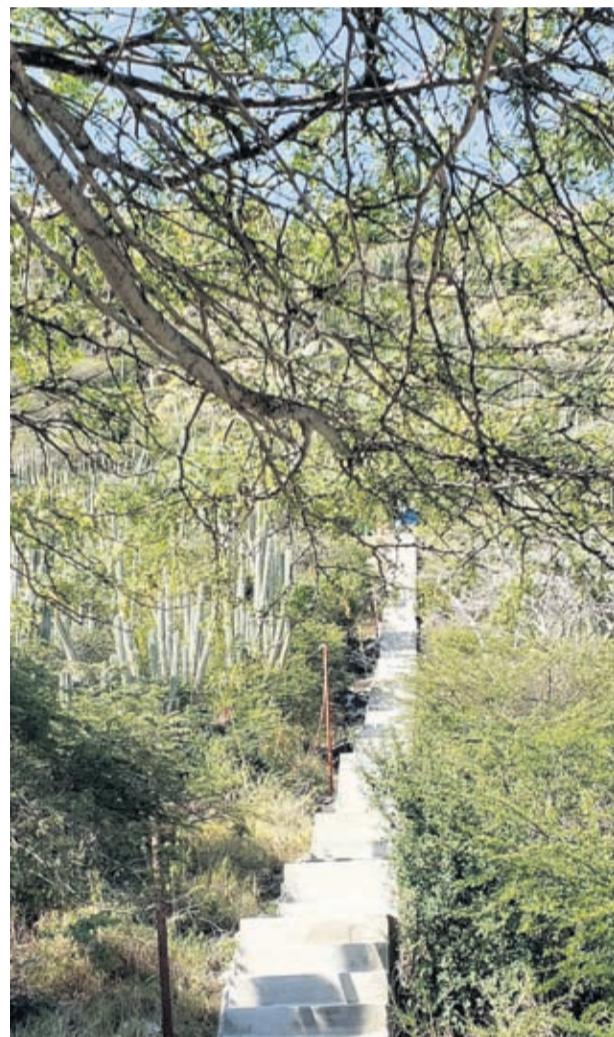
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Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all

day, every day. □



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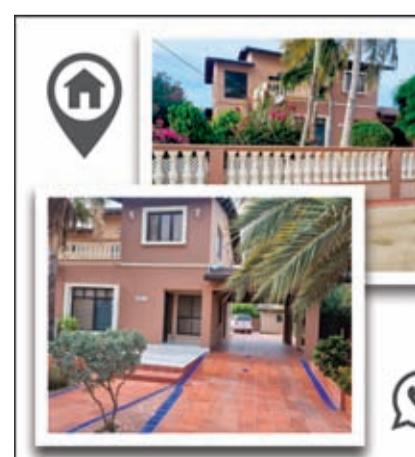
Aruba to me

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For today we received a lovely message from **Don & Amy Sien from Forest Hills, NY.**

They wrote to us saying; Bon dia ArubaToday, Con ta bai? Happy July 4th! Aruba to me is Friendly people, Unique language, Diverse foods and a Caribbean Sea arco iris!

Masha danki y te otro aña, Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



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Episode 13

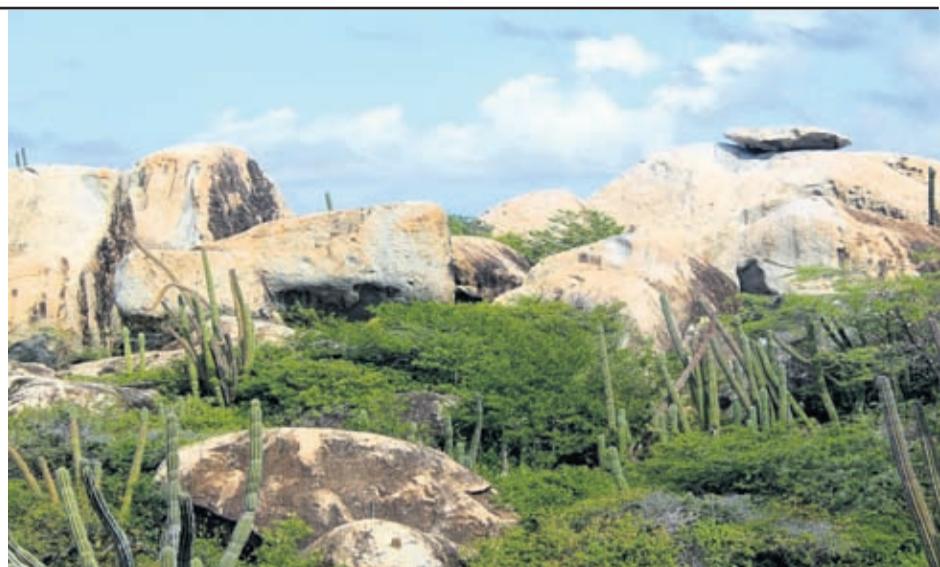
Islands Rock Art

Hi guys good morning. Together we can all be Aruba's rangers, guardians of our patrimony. Let's create a consciousness that rock Art is our heritage; yes, much more than just meaningless doodles made by our Aruban fore fathers. Contrary to popular belief it was not created by some underdeveloped cannibal inhabitants of mythical epoch, it does not reflect buried treasure maps. Neither were they meant to just scare demons or bad spirits away.

What rock Art in general does provide is means of understanding the sacred as well as the mundane perspective of life "in our case" with what prehistoric Amerindian cultures as a community could regionally and specially insularly have experienced by means of rock art expressions and practices relating to it. Here we can examine something in great detail in order to understand it better or to discover more about it, windows for analyzing cultural interaction through symbolic patterns.

The pre historic artist had the goal in mind to inform, create beliefs and handing over knowledge among peers. Communication abilities were a valuable in trade and commerce among neighboring tribes like away of life. Rock art was also a way of telling stories and archiving it for future generation's use. Changes in rock art styles often reflect new ideologies and/or religious practices. The quality of the rock art and the level of sophistication of the culture it belongs to are not necessarily related.

Petroglyphs are less common than Pictographs. Only one site has been discovered and is accessible to public. The incrustations are found on the dark, exposed surfaces of a granite boulder at a site known as Sribana (No.2). The top layer or surfaces of the rock served as the base color for the abstract representational of the "Mythical twins" supernatural beings also referred to as alien figures. Abstract figures that were used by hunters and gatherers in the oldest known new world rock Art bear no resemblance to the real world. Pecking into the rock to create Petroglyphs was accomplished with a hammer stone or stone chisel. Different pecking techniques created different styles. Incising or scratching with a sharp tool was also practiced. Incised designs are more expressive and detailed than pecked



designs.

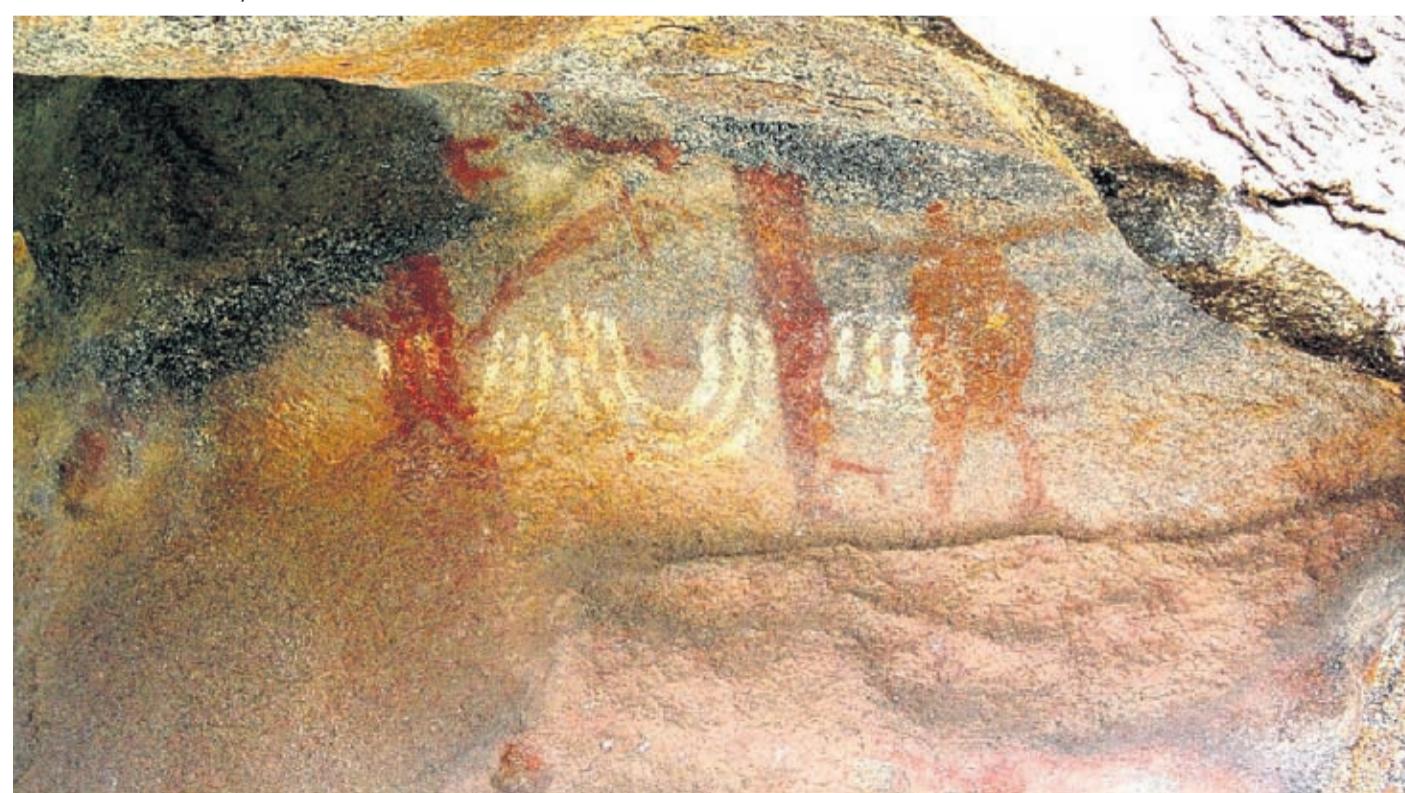
Pictographs are usually created on light colored, protected from the elements granite, Quartz Diorite, surfaces or on limestone walls and caves ceilings. Stylized animals, humans and geometric object designs are common subjects. Pictograph pigments and binders were probably obtained from soot, vegetal pigments and blood or pulverized minerals. While even some sea snails could have provided a



purple reddish stain. Binders were used to stabilize the coloring material and allow it to stick to the rock. The colors generally used were red, orange, white and black. Red pigment probably came from hematite or iron oxide; orange from a combination of hematite, ocher, limonite, lichen or Brazil wood.

Other sources of pigment included white clay, silica, gypsum, chalk, calcium carbonate, and charcoal. Pastels were created from clay mixed with other minerals. Water was used to create consistency but the binding agent could be anything from saliva, to vegetal juices and vegetal oils, to a mix of water and calcium meal, tree gums, even the whites of bird eggs or guano were employed in many regions of the world. The surface of the rock was sometimes smoothed and abraded in preparation for painting. Tools were sticks or probably brushes made from the tips of agave leaves chewed or beaten to remove the pulp, leaving vertical fibers for painting small solid areas, clear lines, and other fine details. Wider areas could be painted for example with a corn husk or cotton wrapped around the finger or even the finger itself depending on the time frame which these were made. Dots were applied with the fingertips. Entire hand prints could have been created using for example a stenciled design by spraying or blowing the paint around the hand that has been placed with spread fingers on the surface of the rock.

The official Native rock artist was often a mystical Medicine Man, herb mixer, the colormaker but most probably because of his power to heal and communicate with the supernatural. A continuation of the early shaman, endemic belief to most tribal societies, most likely survived from before the migrations across the Bering Strait over twenty thousand years ago.



Source: Island Insight column by Etnia Nativa.

Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel

A photograph of the Grotto of the Cross. The image shows a large, rocky overhang with a prominent entrance. The ground in front is a mix of dirt and small stones, with some larger, irregular rock formations scattered around. To the right, a stone wall with a metal railing runs along the edge of the grotto. The background shows more of the rugged, light-colored rock formations under a clear sky.



of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave). discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love bird found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been

have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amer-indian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Ar-awak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long

pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

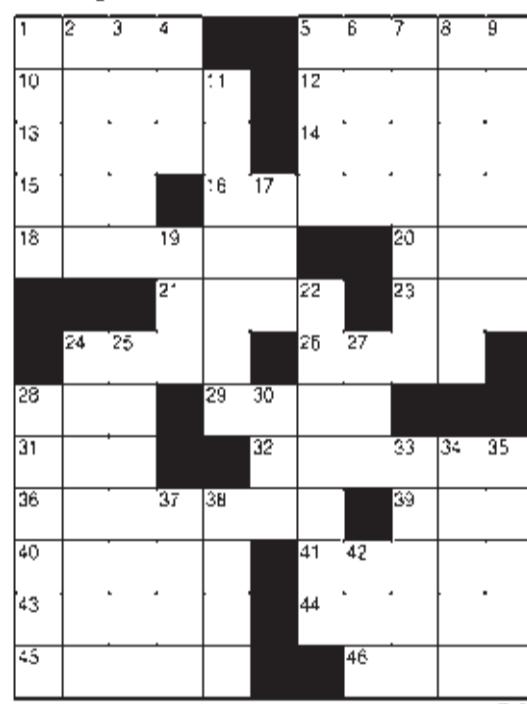
- 44 Sacked
- 1 Dance out
- 45 Monopoly
- 5 Disinfectant's cards
- targets 46 Midmonth day
- 10 Salon worker
- 12 Clarifying words
- 13 Brighten
- 14 Singer Ronstadt
- 15 Suffer
- 16 Frying mess
- 18 Shred
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- 21 Son of Seth
- 23 Young man
- 24 Mint product
- 26 Effortless
- 28 Take in
- 29 Cut
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PAR	P	ADA
SISTERS	T	TAR
ELTON	T	TENS
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Yesterday's answer

DOWN

- 1 Work byproduct
- 11 Bristles at 30 President
- 2 Shire of "Rocky"
- 17 Old dental hand nickname
- 3 Glorify
- 19 Kayo 33 Broken
- 4 Parrot or count 34 Skip the puppy 22 "Folly" ceremony
- 5 Arizona (Alaska) 35 Talks river 24 Conspire crazily
- 6 Throw off 25 Blow up 37 Prepared
- 7 Some 27 Six-legged to drive
- 8 Stepped worker 38 Hardy heroine
- 9 Caught 28 Put a 42 Clay, limit on later



7-6

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-6

CRYPTOQUOTE

X B C P T N K X N G
M B W N Q F W E M P P I X W Z
A P F C U E Q M A — Q C X M U

S X D I X W E P W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I DRIFTED INTO A SUMMER-NAP UNDER THE HOT SHADE OF JULY, SERENADED BY A CICADA LULLABY, TO DROWSY-WARM DREAMS OF DISTANT THUNDER. — TERRI GUILLEMETS

More travelers get cozy with glamping, even amid high costs



The view of Mount Rushmore located just a few miles away from Under Canvas Mount Rushmore tent cabins near Keystone, S.D.

Associated Press

By SALLY FRENCH of Nerd-Wallet

Camping can be one of the cheapest ways to travel. Yet a relatively new style of camping is proliferating by some metrics and it's glamping.

Glamping is a fusion of luxury and nature, where tents are filled with plush pillows, and some even have private bathrooms with heated, running water. Campgrounds typically are outfitted with fast Wi-Fi, and such camping activities as pitching a tent and starting a fire are already done for you. But the blend of outdoor glamor with hotel comfort commands prices more expensive than those of high-end hotels. It's also a sharp contrast to what traditional campers spend. U.S. national park visitors in 2021 spent, on average, \$351 daily per group on traditional lodging outside the parks, such as hotels or bed-and-breakfast establishments.

Parties who camped spent just \$149, according to a Department of the Interior 2021 visitor spending report. That's a 58% discount for visitors willing to exchange concrete for canvas. But canvas doesn't always connote cost savings.

That is, if you're glamping. For example, you might pay \$650 per night after taxes and resort fees at Under Canvas Zion as part of a glamping trip to Utah's Zion National Park this fall. Situated about 30 minutes from the park's entrance, the resort's accommodations include safari-inspired tents with beds, bathrooms, hot showers and wood-burning stoves. There's no electricity, but guests can borrow USB battery packs to keep devices charged. The resort fee covers all-you-can-roast s'mores, live music and yoga classes.

That \$650 covers the entry-level tent, which accommodates two adults via a king bed. The suite tent,

which includes a queen sofa bed in addition to the king bed (thus better for families) can run nearly \$850 per night on autumn weekends.

Under Canvas is among the biggest glamping operators. Another is Auto-Camp, which offers canvas tents as well as other accommodations including Airstream trailers.

A weekend stay at Auto-Camp Zion this fall can cost about \$570 per night after taxes and fees. A larger campsite with an Airstream and tent (large enough for six) can cost nearly \$900 nightly. Yet such prices aren't turning off travelers; glamping is exploding in popularity.

In 2022, an estimated 10.5 million households went glamping, up from an estimated 7.7 million households in 2020. That's according to the 2023 North American Camping & Outdoor Hospitality Report from Kampgrounds of America (KOA), which runs more than 500 campgrounds across the United States and Canada.

CAMPING COOLS DOWN

Camping of all kinds took off at the beginning of the pandemic.

In 2019, 23.5 million North American households said they camped in traditional tents, a figure that ballooned 31% to 30.8 million in 2020, according to KOA's survey.

By 2021, that had grown by an even sharper 50.2% compared with 2019, to 35.3 million.

In 2022, traditional camping enthusiasts dropped off to levels lower than 2020's numbers, back to about 30.4 million households.

Camping of all kinds accounted for 40% of all North American vacations in 2021 but dropped to 32% in 2022. Some people might have gotten over camping, but that's only if your definition of camping means pitching your own tent and starting your own fire. □

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Bear Grylls goes into the wild with a new batch of celebrities, from Bradley Cooper to Rita Ora

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For his latest role, Bradley Cooper leapt onto a hovering helicopter, rappelled down a 400-foot cliff and pulled himself across a 100-foot ravine in one of the harshest climates in North America. His reward wasn't an Oscar nomination or a big box office hit. It was a hug from adventurist Bear Grylls and some words of encouragement.

"He smashed it," Grylls says. Cooper is one of several celebrities including Benedict Cumberbatch, Cynthia Erivo, Russell Brand, Troy Kotsur, Rita Ora, Daveed Diggs and Tatiana Maslany who put their survival skills to the test in a new season of Nat Geo's "Running Wild with Bear Grylls: The Challenge," premiering Friday.

"I'm really proud of this season. We've had incredible guests who pushed the boundaries in terms of terrain and the challenge," Grylls told The Associated Press. "When there's real tough weather with fun people, it's often really compelling TV."

The series pairs Grylls with a celebrity for 48 hours in a harsh environment. The first day, Grylls teaches key skills: climbing techniques, water-finding tips and fire-setting, among them, and then the guest must do them alone the second day.

Kotsur, who won an Oscar for "CODA," was tested in the Scottish Highlands, descending 2,500 feet (760 meters) across eight miles (13 kilometers) of harsh terrain and freezing rivers, including a 150-foot (45-meter) rappel down a waterfall. Because Kotsur is deaf, the two men used



This combination of photos released by Nat Geo shows celebrities, top row from left, Russell Brand, Bradley Cooper, Benedict Cumberbatch, Daveed Diggs, bottom row from left, Cynthia Erivo, Troy Kotsur, Tatiana Maslany and Rita Ora in separate episodes of "Running Wild with Bear Grylls: The Challenge," premiering on July 9.

Associated Press

rope tugs to communicate. Kotsur's reward: haggis, a Scottish delicacy in which organ meat is put inside a sheep's stomach and cooked.

Diggs, a city kid, finds himself in the inhospitable Great Basin Desert in Nevada.

"I don't know how this is going to go and that's why I'm doing it," he says. Diggs learns how to use anchor points, track a target and make a signal fire. His dinner is a tarantula.

"It's not what I was hoping for, I'm not going to lie to you," Diggs says.

Grylls told the AP the best guests are always those who come with a willingness to go with it, not to look good.

"The wild is so unpredict-

able and stuff is always happening. You can't look cool all the time in the wild," he said.

The show is not just about survival. Grylls' guests usually open up and show a different side. Ora talks about her ties to Kosovo, Cooper seems unfazed eating mule deer tongue and Cumberbatch reveals stories about his grandfather. Over a campfire, Grylls goes deeper than many TV interviewers.

"It's as much about the stars and their own personal journeys and struggles and battles as it is about the adventure and the places," he says. "I think that combination works well because it doesn't feel like a performance, like a chat show does, where you're dressed

up and made up and you get three minutes."

Cumberbatch is taken to the Isle of Skye, where his grandfather trained as a submariner. He learns how to use climbing talons and how to tie an Italian hitch knot.

"It's not the same as doing a stunt on a Marvel film. It's a lot more real," Cumberbatch says. His meal is seaweed and limpets. "Definitely al dente," he jokes and his bed is a wet field.

Ora arrives at the Valley of Fire in Nevada following a 15,000-foot (4,570-meter) skydive, learns a chimney climb, butchers a dead pigeon, sacrifices her lip balm to make a fire and uses a sock to soak up water. She and Grylls even dance on a rock ledge, casting their shadows tall.

"The wild strips us all bare, doesn't it?" Grylls told the AP. "It's like a grape when you squeeze us, you see what we're made of. And that's always the appealing part of 'Running Wild' — getting to know the real

people."

One commonality among the guests is that viewers will often hear it was the celebrity's parents who instilled in them a sense of adventure and testing themselves.

"It's a reminder just how important parenting is," Grylls said. "Almost invariably when I ask stars, 'Where does it come from?' they go, 'Oh, my dad was amazing when I was really struggling at school.' Or, 'My mum was just such inspiration holding down three jobs.'"

"Running Wild with Bear Grylls" is only one of several shows the adventurer is juggling. On TBS this year, he debuted "I Survived Bear Grylls," a competition series that bridges the survival and game show genres by having regular contestants recreate some of Grylls' stunts like digging through poop or drinking urine. Younger fans can also enjoy "You vs. Wild," an interactive Netflix show that asks viewers to choose how Grylls will make it out of the wilderness alive.

"I'm not going to be doing these shows forever but hopefully having an adventurous spirit and knowing the value of great friends and the power of a never-give-up attitude in the world hopefully those things will keep going," the 49-year-old said.

He seems to have tapped into something deep in the human DNA: a need to be able to start a fire, use tools and master the wild. But Grylls thinks it's more than that.

"I really believe it's a state of mind. We don't have to be in the wild to live an adventurous life," he said. "It's how we live our life, how we approach our work, our relationships, our dreams, our aspirations, our interactions with people. Are we leaning on the adventure side? Are we always pushing the boundaries, taking a few risks?" □

Rain and environmental activists affect play on Day 3 at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Rain was again affecting play at Wimbledon on Day 3 of the grass-court tournament, and environmental activists halted two matches as well.

Intermittent showers Wednesday forced matches on the outside courts to be suspended twice, while play in the main stadiums was also stopped for a short time because of the weather.

That didn't stop top-ranked woman Iga Swiatek and defending men's champion Novak Djokovic from reaching the third round in straight sets on Centre Court. But it did prevent several other players from even taking the court, with some first-round matches pushed back until Thursday.

Two Just Stop Oil protestors were arrested after disrupting one match by running onto Court 18 and throwing orange confetti onto the grass, before being led off by security.

That stopped the first-round



Frances Tiafoe of the US returns to China's Wu Yibing in a men's singles match on day three of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

Associated Press

encounter between Grigor Dimitrov and Sho Shimbukuro early in the second set, and the rain then came before the confetti could be cleared.

The match resumed with the others after the rain de-

lay. The two protestors were arrested "on suspicion of aggravated trespass and criminal damage," the All England Club said in a statement.

A few hours later during the next match on the same

court, another man representing the same organization also threw orange confetti on the grass before security guards corralled him and dragged him away. He was also arrested.

"Obviously it's not pleas-

ant," Dimitrov said about the disruption after winning his match in straight sets. "In the end of the day there is not much you can do. I think everyone in a way did their part as quick as possible. I mean, rain was coming so it was also a little bit fortunate to come off the court and have some time to kind of like regroup a little bit and shake it off." Wimbledon increased its security in coordination with London police and other agencies for this year's tournament, in part as a result of protests at other major sports venues in Britain this year.

The rain had already created a major backlog of matches after the first two days, and only eight matches were completed on Tuesday. Several matches scheduled for the outside courts on Wednesday were pushed back to Thursday.

Only Centre Court and No. 1 Court at the All England Club have roofs. □

Former Giro champion Hindley wins Tour mountain stage to claim yellow jersey

The first mountain stage of the Tour de France produced a new race leader on Wednesday and firmly indicated that defending champion Jonas Vingegaard has the upper hand in his duel with two-time winner Tadej Pogacar. On his Tour de France debut, former Giro d'Italia champion Jai Hindley took the yellow jersey after winning the 162.7-kilometer (100.9-mile) fifth stage that also included a daunting 15.2-kilometer (9.4-mile) grind up Col de Soudet.

Vingegaard made the most of the brutal climb of Marie-Blanque, the third and last ascent of the day, to launch a sharp attack that was left unanswered by Pogacar.

"He was just stronger today," Pogacar said.

Vingegaard moved into second place in the general classification, 47 seconds behind Hindley. Pogacar was sixth overall, 1 minute, 40 seconds back. Previous leader Adam Yates,

a teammate of Pogacar, dropped to fifth.

Hindley was part of an early breakaway and became the first Australian leader of the race since Rohan Dennis back in 2015.



Australia's Jai Hindley crosses the finish line to win the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 163 kilometers (101 miles) with start in Pau and finish in Laruns, France, Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

Associated Press

"I was surprised when I was part of the break, and the bunch didn't really react," Hindley said. "We decided to start working in the group and just have fun. Initially my idea was to just get a buffer to the other general classification guys."

Vingegaard perfectly timed his attack after American teammate Sepp Kuss imposed a fast and exhausting tempo that took its toll on Pogacar, who found out after the finish that his girlfriend had crashed during the women's Giro in Italy, and may have suffered a concussion. "It's a bit more of a sad news than losing 50 seconds to Jonas, or 1 minute," Pogacar said. Vingegaard stopped short of celebrating, perfectly aware that the Tour is a three-week race of attrition

full of twists and turns. "I know Tadej, he never gives up," Vingegaard said. "It will be a fight all the way to Paris."

Hindley, who rides for the Bora-Hansgrohe team, was part of a 36-man group that managed to escape from the pack early on. Following several moves from other contenders including Wout van Aert and Julian Alaphilippe, Hindley attacked 4 kilometers before the Marie-Blanque summit.

"On the Soudet I started thinking about a stage win, at the bottom of the climb I also saw my parents which was really special and emotional," Hindley said. "When I attacked, everything went so fast, I knew I had a good chance, but I only started really believing on the home straight." □



Houston Astros' Yainer Diaz connects for a two run home run against the Colorado Rockies during the fourth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 5, 2023, in Houston.

Associated Press

Díaz homers twice to help Astros down Rockies 6-4

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Yainer Díaz homered in his first two at-bats and Jeremy Peña added a two-run shot in his return from injury to lead the Houston Astros past the Colorado Rockies 6-4 on Wednesday.

Díaz had a solo home run in the second inning and

his two-run homer made it 3-0 in the fourth in his first career two-homer game. Peña's home run came later in that inning to push the lead to 5-0. He returned after missing five games because of a stiff neck. The Rockies cut the lead to 1 on a homer by Randal Grichuk in the seventh, but Houston added an in-

surance run in the bottom of the inning to sweep the two-game series and secure a fourth straight victory.

C.J. Cron also homered for the Rockies, who dropped their 10th straight road game.

Houston starter J.P. France (4-3) allowed six hits and three runs in six innings. Ryan Pressly pitched a scoreless ninth for his 19th save.

Colorado's Chase Anderson (0-4) yielded seven hits and five runs in four innings for his fourth straight loss. He has allowed 30 hits, 27 runs and eight homers in that span.

There was one out in the second when Díaz's first homer put the Astros on top 1-0.

Kyle Tucker singled to open Houston's fourth but was caught trying to steal second base. José Abreu singled to right field before Díaz connected again to make it 3-0.

Corey Julks singled with two outs and Peña pushed the lead to 5-0 when he sent Anderson's next pitch into the seats in right field for his 10th homer this season.

Nolan Jones walked to start the fifth for Colorado before a one-out single by Ezequiel Tovar. A single by Harold Castro scored Jones to cut the lead to 5-1. A wild pitch by France left runners on second and third and Jurickson Profar made it 5-2 with an RBI single. France limited the damage in the inning when Kris Bryant grounded into a double play.

Cron's homer came with two outs in the sixth inning to get the Rockies within 5-3. □



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